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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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STAAS & HALSEY LLP
SUITE 700
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

SHRADER, LAWRENCE J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2193

DATE MAILED: 10/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/785,207

Applicant(s)

IIZUKA, KUNIHIKO

Examiner

Lawrence Shrader

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 June 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed by the Applicant on 6/27/2005.
2. The arguments set forth in the amendment filed on 12/13/2004 by the Applicant have been fully considered, but are not persuasive. Claims 1 – 12 remain rejected, and new claim 13 is also rejected.

Specification

3. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because there are several reference numbers used that are unclear. For example, it is not clear what “(1, 10)” means in “...a program development device (1, 10)...” Recommend not using reference numbers in the Abstract. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).
4. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Reference numbers throughout the specification should be checked for clarity and accuracy. For example, on pages 3 – 5 especially, it is not clear what “(1, 10)” means in the reference to “program development device (1, 10)”. Also reference numbers throughout are used without specifying which drawing applies.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 4, 5, 8, 10, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Menendez et al., U.S. Patent 5,555,369 (hereinafter referred to as Menendez) in view of Munker et al., U.S. Patent 6,591,366 (hereinafter referred to as Munker).

In regard to claim 4:

A program development device developing an application program by combining components having a plurality of interfaces, comprising:

a layout component selection module selecting said layout component which lays out a plurality of components to be laid out;

Menendez discloses a component layout module (column 14, lines 42 – 60; e.g., Figures 8 and 9).

a laid-out component selection module selecting one of said plurality of components to be laid out in said selected layout component;

Menendez discloses a component selection module (column 14, lines 42 – 60; e.g., Figures 8 and 9).

a prescribing module prescribing a layout specification for laying out said laid-out components, the layout specification prescribed in accordance with preset information indicative of usable interfaces among the plurality of interfaces corresponding to each of the plurality of components;

Menendez discloses a layout prescribing a module employing an editor to layout a window (column 10, lines 20 – 55; e.g., Figures 12 – 14). Figure 14 and associated text discloses preset information indicative of the usable interfaces corresponding to the plurality of components.

a recording unit retaining a layout specification record of the prescribed layout specification;

Menendez discloses that the layout is recorded by selecting the “Add Window” menu selection (column 10, lines 41 – 54).

an edit module supporting a development of the application program by laying out said laid-out components in said layout component in accordance with the layout specification record.

Menendez discloses a layout module employing an editor to layout a window and modify the view (column 10, lines 20 – 55; e.g., Figures 12 – 14).

a group definition module defining a group having a plurality of users.

Although Menendez does not explicitly disclose a group definition module, the use of group definition modules or parameters to define a group having a plurality of users authorized or specified is well known in the art. For example, Munker discloses a check of a to determine whether a particular user belongs to a specific group authorized to operate a program (column 5, lines 46 – 51). There must be some module of code to perform this check. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the component layout module of Menendez with the group authorization checking as taught by Munker because it would be advantageous in a development environment to authorize only a plurality of individuals in a specifically authorized group to design or edit components in a system as taught by Munker at column 5, lines 54 – 56.

In regard to claim 5, incorporating the rejection of claim 4:

"...further comprising a specification designating module designating one of a plurality of layout specification records,

wherein said edit module supports the development of the program by use of the layout specification prescribed in the designated layout specification record."

Menendez discloses that the layout can be edited (column 15, lines 42 – 55; e.g., Figures 10 – 14).

In regard to claim 8 (a method), rejected for the same corresponding reasons put forth in the rejection of claim 4 (a corresponding device).

In regard to claim 10 (a computer-readable medium), rejected for the same corresponding reasons put forth in the rejection of claim 8 (a corresponding method).

In regard to claim 12 (a communication signal containing code), rejected for the same corresponding reasons put forth in the rejection of claim 8 (a corresponding method) in addition to the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection above.

In regard to claim 13:

"associating at least one usable interface among the multiple interfaces with each of the components for developing the application program;

displaying the at least one usable interface with each of the components responsive to a selected component for developing the application program; and

developing the application program using the selected component with the displayed at least one usable interface."

Menendez discloses a component layout module and a component selection module (column 14, lines 42 – 60; e.g., Figures 8 and 9). The selected components are used to develop an application program as described in the Abstract and column 1, lines 1 – 3; column 2, lines 28 – 56.

7. Claims 1, 2, 7, 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Menendez et al., U.S. Patent 5,555,369 in view of Tow et al., U.S. Patent 5,860,070 (hereinafter referred to as Tow).

Menendez discloses a program development device developing an application program by use of a component having a plurality of interfaces, comprising:

In regard to claim 1:

a component selecting module having said component selected;

Menendez discloses a component selection module (column 2, lines 35 – 45; column 14, lines 42 – 47; e.g., Figure 8).

an interface selection module having said interface selected for said selected component, and setting whether said selected interface is permitted to be embedded into said application program or not in accordance with preset information indicative of usable interfaces corresponding to said selected component;

Menendez discloses an interface selection module (column 2, lines 35 – 45; column 14, lines 50 – 54) and Figure 14 and associated text discloses preset information indicative of the usable interfaces corresponding to the plurality of components, but does not explicitly disclose

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determining permission to embed the interface in to the application program. However, Tow discloses insertion of data into a table wherein permission is required to perform the update (column 2, line 60 to column 3, line 3). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the interface selection module as taught by Menendez with the act of gaining permission before conducting an update as taught by Tow, because the combination allows the Menendez invention to select an interface while avoiding conflicts with existing components as taught by Tow at column 3, lines 1 – 3.

a recording unit retaining a set record of setting whether said interface is permitted to be embedded into said application program or not;

Menendez does not specifically record valid and invalid interfaces. However, Tow discloses recording a key value that is used to allow or deny the insertion of a row into a table (Abstract). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the component and interface selection module as taught by Menendez with the recording of a unique key used to permit the update of a table row as taught by Tow, because the combination provides a means for the Menendez record key information to determine whether or not the interface is permitted to be embedded just as permission to insert a row is determined by the same logis in the Tow invention at column 3, lines 1 – 3.

an edit module supporting the development of the program by use of said interface set in to be permitted to be embedded into said application program or said interface that is not set to be inhibited to be embedded into said application program in accordance with the set record.

Menendez discloses an edit module for editing the script underlying the selected component interface (column 15, lines 44 – 47), but does not explicitly disclose determining permission to embed the interface in to the application program. However, Tow discloses

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insertion of data into a table wherein permission is required to perform the update (column 2, line 60 to column 3, line 3). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the interface selection module as taught by Menendez with the act of gaining permission before conducting an update as taught by Tow, because the combination allows the Menendez invention to select an interface while avoiding conflicts with existing components as taught by Tow at column 3, lines 1 – 3.

In regard to claim 2, incorporating the rejection of claim 1:

“...further comprising a specifying module specifying one of the plurality of set records, wherein said edit module supports the development of the program by use of said interface set to be permitted to be embedded into said application program in the specified set record or said interface that is not set to be embedded into said application program in the specified set record.”

Menendez discloses an edit module for editing the script underlying the selected component interface (column 15, lines 44 – 47), but does not explicitly disclose determining permission to embed the interface in to the application program. However, Tow discloses insertion of data into a table wherein permission is required to perform the update (column 2, line 60 to column 3, line 3). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the interface selection module as taught by Menendez with the act of gaining permission before conducting an update as taught by Tow, because the combination allows the Menendez invention to select an interface while avoiding conflicts with existing components as taught by Tow at column 3, lines 1 – 3.

In regard to claim 7 (a method), rejected for the same corresponding reasons put forth in the rejection of claim 1 (a corresponding device).

In regard to claim 9 (a computer-readable medium), rejected for the same corresponding reasons put forth in the rejection of claim 7 (a corresponding method).

In regard to claim 11 (a communication signal containing code), rejected for the same corresponding reasons put forth in the rejection of claim 7 (a corresponding method) in addition to the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection above.

8. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Menendez et al., U.S. Patent 5,555,369 in view of Tow et al., U.S. Patent 5,860,070 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of May, U.S. Patent 6,421,653.

In regard to claim 3, incorporating the rejection of claim 1:

“a group definition module defining a group consisting of a plurality of users;”

“a group specifying module specifying a usable set record with respect to the group.”

Menendez discloses a module defining a group of usable components and Tow discloses recording a key value that is used to allow or deny the insertion of a row into a table, but neither Menendez nor Tow explicitly discloses a group consisting of a plurality of users. However, May discloses a class group modification interface that determines unassigned (invalid) and assigned (valid) groups of valid entities (users) and usable records (column 28, lines 32 – 59). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the component and interface selection module as taught by the combination of

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Menendez and Tow with the class group modification interface taught by May, because the combination provides a means for the selection of usable records that assign permissions for insertion of an interface in the Menendez/Tow combination with respect to a group by customizing the groups with addition and deletion of group members as taught by May (column 28, lines 45 – 48).

9. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Menendez et al., U.S. Patent 5,555,369 in view of Munker et al., U.S. Patent 6,591,366 as applied to claim 4 above, further in view of May, U.S. Patent 6,421,653.

In regard to claim 6, incorporating the rejection of claim 4:

“...further comprising:

a specification designating module designating the layout specification record applicable to said application program developed by the group.”

Menendez discloses a module defining a group of usable components, and Munker discloses a check of a to determine whether a particular user belongs to a specific group authorized to operate a program. Additionally May discloses a class group modification interface that determines unassigned (invalid) and assigned (valid) groups of valid entities (users) and usable records (column 28, lines 32 – 59). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the component and interface selection module as taught by Menendez combined with Munker, with the class group modification interface taught by May, because the combination provides a means for the Menendez invention to select usable records with respect to a group by customizing the groups with addition and deletion of group members as taught by May (column 28, lines 45 – 48).

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments filed on 12/13/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant has argued:

“In contrast, the present invention predetermines an interface that is usable with a component for developing an application program, and enables development of the application program. For example, a user is provided with a display of usable interfaces corresponding to a component selected by the user and the user is enabled to select from the displayed usable interfaces for developing the application program (see also, FIGS. 5 and 6 of the present application). That is, the present invention selectively provides interfaces that correspond to a selected component and thereby reduces the amount of time associated with determining a usable layout for developing the application program.”

Examiner's response:

Menendez discloses a component layout module and a component selection module (column 14, lines 42 – 60; e.g., Figures 8 and 9). The selected components are used to develop an application program as described in the Abstract; column 1, lines 1 – 3; and column 2, lines 28 – 56.

Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lawrence Shrader whose telephone number is (571) 272-3734.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 08:00-16:30.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kakali Chaki can be reached on (571) 272-3719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Lawrence Shrader
Examiner
Art Unit 2193

September 7, 2005

Kakali Chaki
KAKALI CHAKI
SENIOR PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100